Jennifer Lisa Vest



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MEDIA KIT

Author, Speaker, Teacher

Books, Courses, Workshops

2026

POETRY, PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

About



Dr.JENNIFER LISA VEST is a queer Afro-Indigenous (Florida Mikasuki Seminole/Haitian/Black) poet, philosopher, teacher, author, healer , and content creator from Chicago.

POET
Her poetry has been published in numerous journals such as the Canadian Journal of Native Studies, Tongues, and Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal as well as many anthologies such as: The People Who Stayed: Southeastern Indian Writing after the Removal, Fast Talk, Full Volume: An Anthology of African American Poetry. And Turtle Island To Abya Yala. She has two poetry books: Names (1997) and Ancestor Count (2020). and has a film based on her one-person show, (Re)Counting (Wo)Man (2020).

Jennifer Lisa has performed poetry throughout the US and is a former SF National slam team member. She/They has curated, directed, and performed in numerous mixed media shows throughout the US and has founded several arts collectives. She founded Daughters of the Dream, and Diva-Nation (DC). The Four Corners Collective (SF) and co-founded the Native Media Collective (Oakland). She helped to write and produce the film Who Owns the Past, starred in the short film, Dos Almas/Two-Spirit and formulated the genre of Philo-Poetics.

SCHOLAR
Dr. Vest is a scholar and an author. She is a former Associate Professor of Philosophy with a PhD in Indigenous Philosophies from UC Berkeley, a Masters degree in history from Howard University and a B.A. in Physics from Hampshire College. {Prior to becoming an escaped academic, Vest contributed to the shaping of Native American and African academic philosophies. Her monograph, Sovereign Wisdom: Generating Native American Philosophy from Recurrent Themes in Indigenous Cultures, was published by Peter Lang in 2024. She has published numerous philosophical articles in journals and presented at dozens of academic conferences and universities throughout the world.

HEALER
Trained by Traditional and Western teachers in Trinidadian Shango, Jamaican Revivalism, Lakota Sweatlodge firekeeping, mediumship. spiritual healing, and Reiki, Dr. Vest worked as a medical Intuition for ten years and currently teaches medical intuition.

CONTENT CREATOR
Since November 2024 , Jennifer Lisa has been telling stories and posting analyses about the spiritual significance of the current political moment online under the handle @ethical psychic on Tiktok and @JenniferLisaVest on Youtube



Performance and Speaking

Poetry, Philopoetics, and Performance

As a performer Jennifer Lisa brings together creative experiences from the LBGBT Performance culture of Washington,DC. the national slam poetry scene and their work creating single and multi-artist performance pieces and films. Whether sharing from a poetry book, telling stories or combining poetry, storytelling and philosophy, her focus is always on engaging the audience.

Dr. Vest developed the field of philopoetics as a philosophy professor who wanted to interrupt the dry patriarchal presentation style common in academia. Following in the footsteps of Gloria Anzaldua, Vest's philopoetic work combines analysis, poetry, philosophy, and storytelling to address important social justice topics

Philosophy, Social Justice, Ancestral Medicine

As a scholar and keynote, Dr. Vest offers lectures grounded in their extensive education and research in the areas of Native American and African Philosophy, 2Spirit Culture, Black-Indian History, Feminism, Activism, Healing, Medical Intuition and Ancestral Medicine.

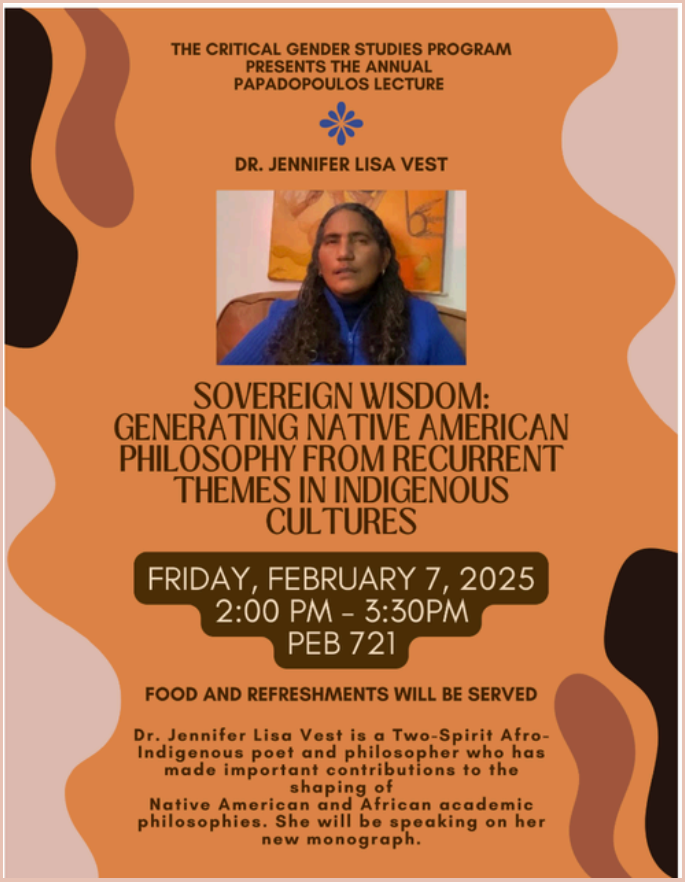
Curriculum Vitae available upon request

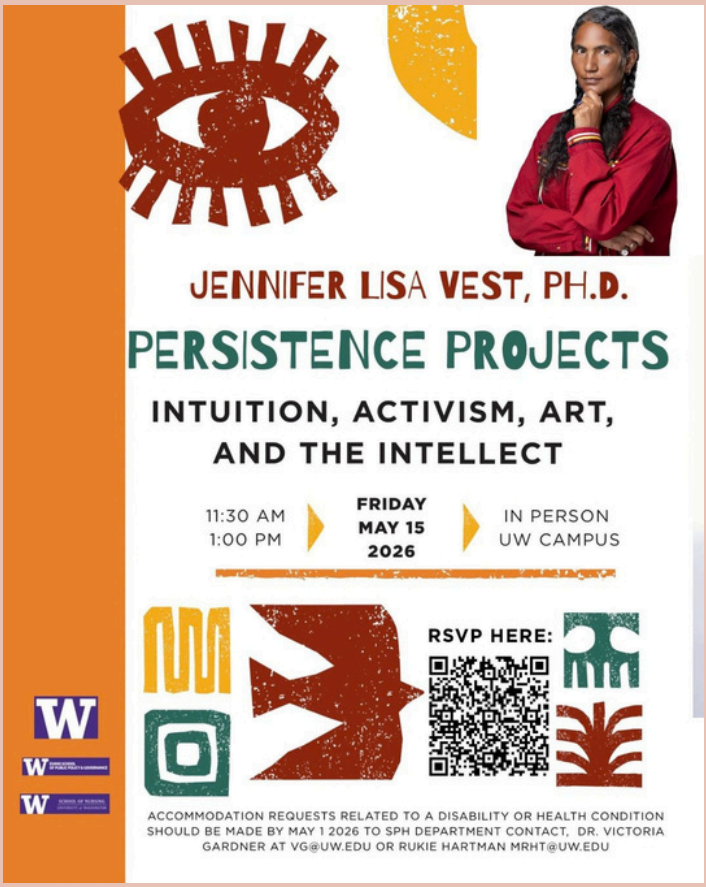
Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, CA
Comparative Ethnic Studies/Philosophy
Dissertation: Critical Indigenous Philosophy: Disciplinary Challenges Posed by African and Native American Epistemologies
M.A. Howard University, Wash, D.C.
Latin American and Caribbean History
Thesis: The Role of Women and Healing in the Revivalist Tradition in Jamaica
B.A. Hampshire College, Amherst, MA.
Physics and Philosophy
Thesis: The Solar Neutrino Puzzle: A Theoretical Physics Problem

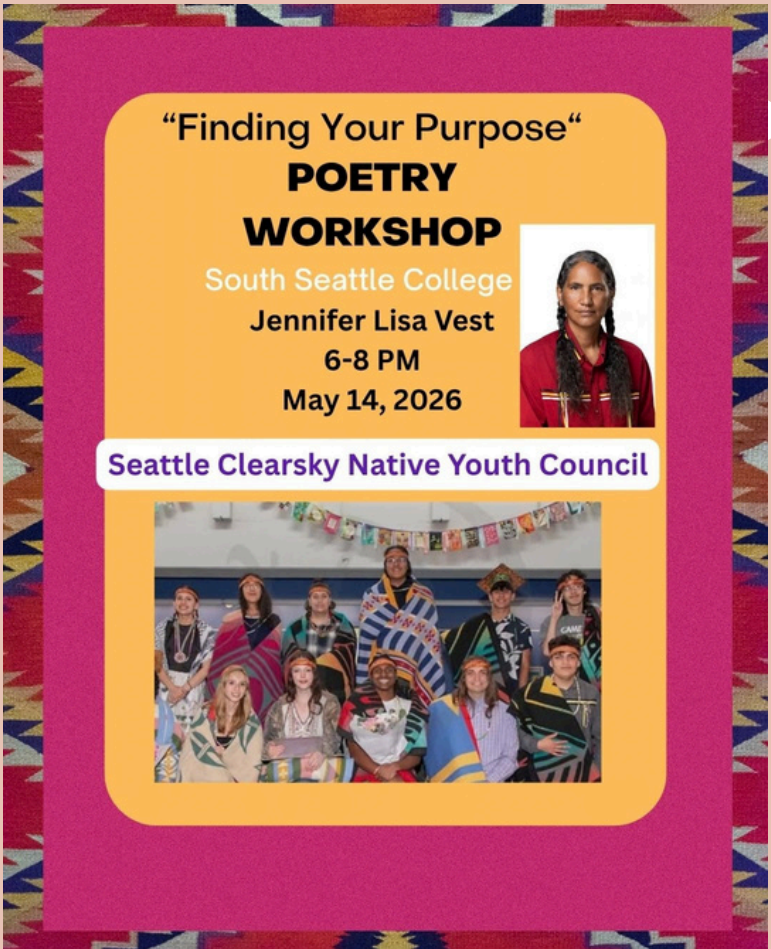
TOPICS

- Native American Philosophy
- Native American History and Culture
- African Philosophy
- Afro-Caribbean Spirituality
- Feminist Philosophy
- Pluralism in Philosophy
- Two Spirit Roles and Culture
- Fighting Fascism
- Ancestral Medicine
- Activism, Unity and Persistence
- Medical Intuition
- Social Justice Movements
- Psychic Development
- Poetry Workshops
- Life Purpose Workshops
- Cross-Cultural Organizing for Justice
- BIPOC Medicine workshops

Recent Lectures



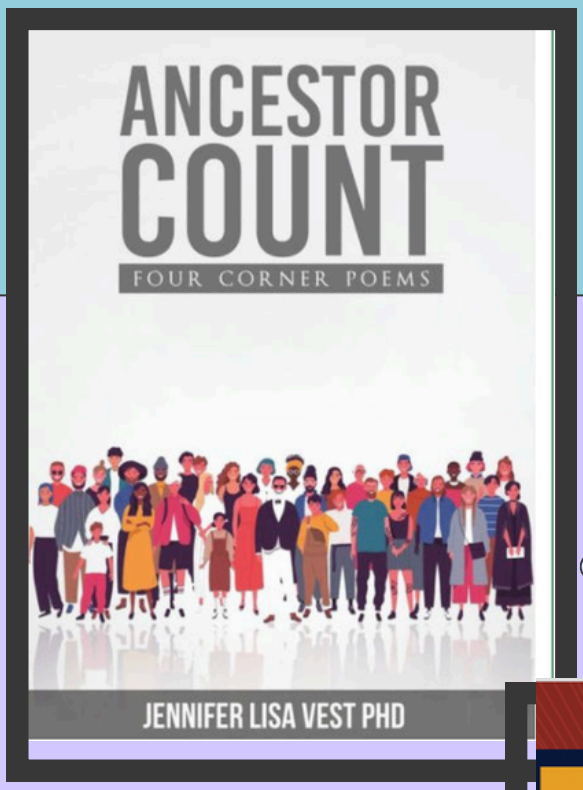






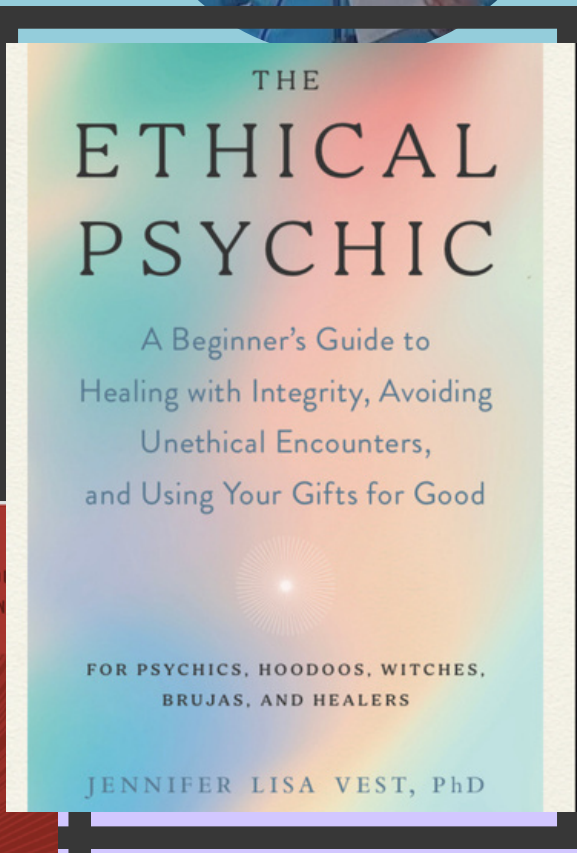
Books



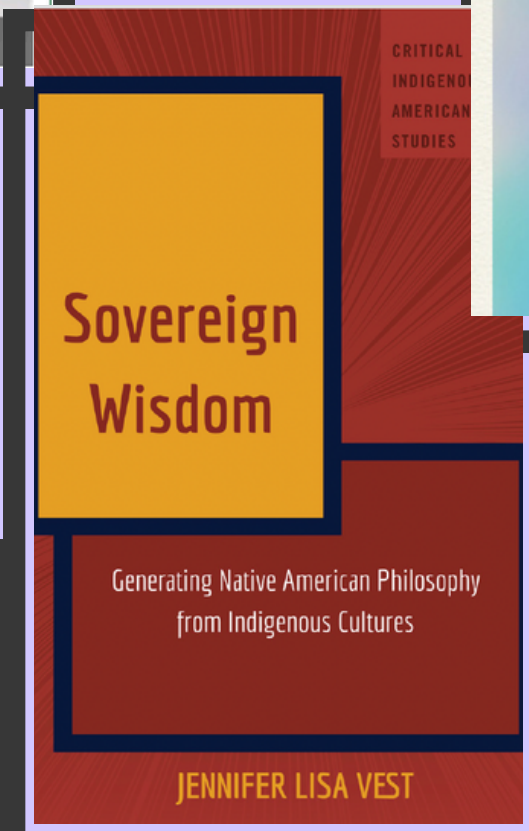


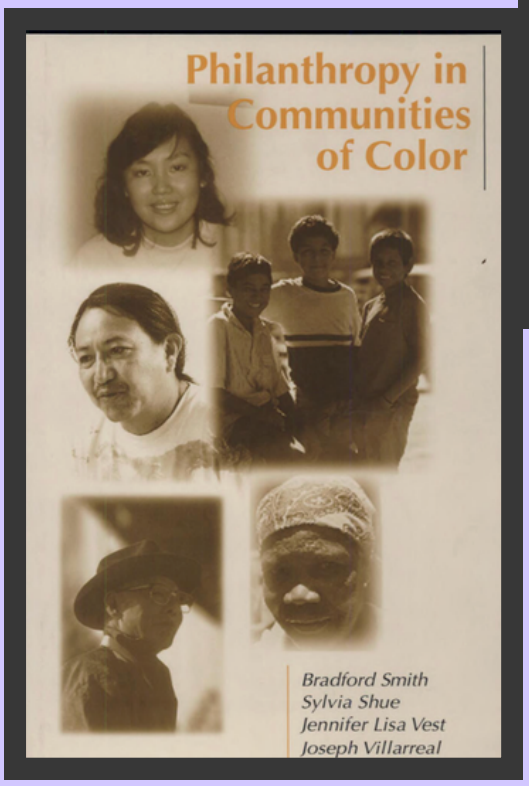
POETRY

PHILOSOPHY



HEALING





PHILANTHROPY

ANCESTOR COUNT

FOUR CORNER POEMS



JENNIFER LISA VEST PHD

ANCESTOR COUNT

In this volume, poet and philosopher Jennifer Lisa Vest explores history, ancestry, racism, identity, traditional culture, modernity, sexuality, gender, indigeneity and blackness through the lens of hybridity and mulitipositionality. She names and claims, decries and protests the histories of her peoples in an effort to teach the beauty of oneness through a celebration of difference. By provoking, challenging, and interrupting both modern and traditional narratives, these poems take the reader on an unsettling and eye-opening narrative journey. In the end, the problematics of place and race that mark this collection lead to an insinuated revelation of splintered yet shared humanity.



Dr. Jennifer Lisa Vest is a mixedblood poet and philosopher originally from Chicago, whose work is grounded in and guided by her ancestry of multiplicity. Dr. Vest has a PhD in Indigenous Philosophies from UC Berkeley and is the founder of the field of Philo-Poetics which combines philosophy, critical theory, storytelling, and poetry. She is an escaped academic who contributed to the shaping of Native American and African philosophies through her service for many years on the boards of: the International Society of African Philosophy and The APA Committee on the Status of Indigenous Philosophers. She has published in the areas of African philosophy, Caribbean philosophy, Feminist philosophy, Native American philosophy, and Mixed Philosophy in journals such as Philosophical Topics, Thought and Practice: A Journal of the Philosophical Association of Kenya, Canadian Journal of Native Studies, and Journal of Caribbean Studies. Her poetry has appeared in multiple journals and anthologies such as The People Who Stayed: Southeastern Indian Writing after the Removal, Beyond the Frontier: African American Poetry for the 21st Century, and Tongues, among others. She has performed her work in hundreds of venues throughout North America.

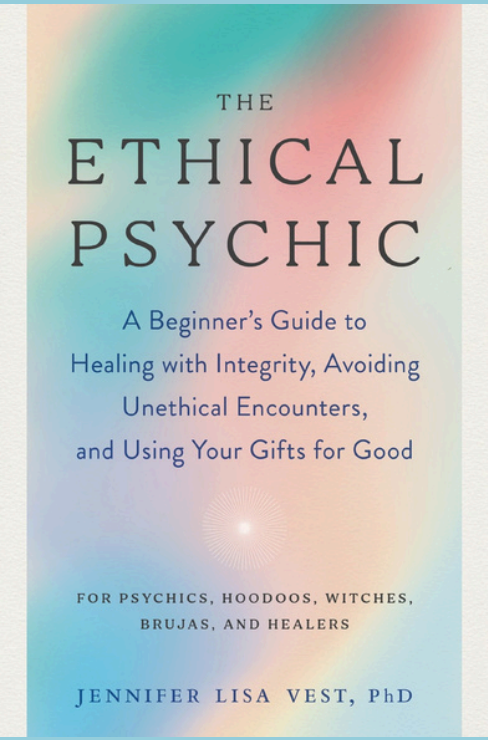
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THE ETHICAL PSYCHIC

ABeginner'sGuideto Healingwith Integrity, Avoiding UnethicalEncounters, andUsing YourGifts forGood



THE ETHICAL PSYCHIC
A Beginner's Guide to Healing with Integrity, Avoiding Unethical Encounters, and Using Your Gifts for Good

By Jennifer Lisa Vest, PhD
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"It is not enough for psychics to learn how to maximize the efficacy of their psychic gifts. They must also learn how to use their gifts for good and never for harm." —
Being an ethical psychic means being of service—and learning how to navigate the thorny issues and unique risks inherent to intuitive work.

From knowing your boundaries and limitations—and respecting those of your clients—to resisting the temptation of the guru lifestyle, *The Ethical Psychic* offers 7 critical guiding principles for grounded, ethical practice. Afro-Indigenous intuitive, scholar, and healer Dr. Jennifer Lisa Vest, PhD, explores
why (and how) energy workers must be of service, authentic, and self-aware; learn from their mistakes; embody sensitivity to client needs; be humble; and listen to a higher source.

With training in African American Hoodoo, Native American Sweatlodge, Jamaican Revivalism, Trinidadian Shango, Spiritualism, Reiki, Pranic Healing, and other traditions, Dr. Vest is uniquely positioned to address readers' most common and pressing questions, like: How do I avoid crossing boundaries? What if I'm making things worse? What privacy considerations do I need to think about? How can I be financially ethical? How do I avoid appropriation? What do I need to know about working with spirits?

A go-to-guide for any medium, spirit worker, psychic, or aspiring Reiki master, *The Ethical Psychic* helps readers become the grounded and effective healers they were born to be.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"Only Dr.Vest could have birthed this book—a spiritual toolbox for the novice to professional that supports psychic development authentically and with respectful discernment in service of self and clients. I will tap into this wise guidance often."
— **Michele Elizabeth Lee**, healer, artist, educator, mother, and author of Working the Roots: Over 400 Years of Traditional African American Healing

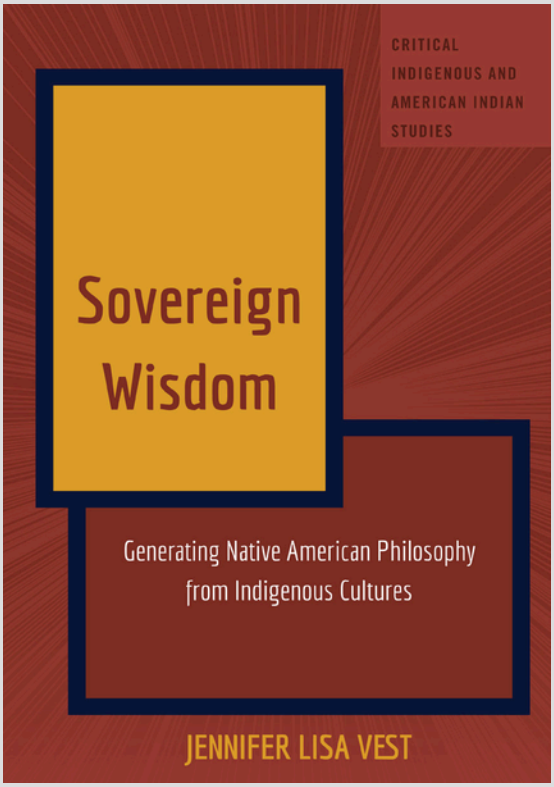
"For far too long, the quest for knowledge related to spiritual practices has been fraught with imbalance of power, greed, and the desire by some to use the knowledge being sought to harm others. The challenges created for both the practitioner and for the recipient of the knowledge, when the practitioner is even slightly less attentive to the need for a high degree of ethics in their practice, can be devastating for both. This book is engaging, scholarly, accessible, and a must-read for anyone who works with others, regardless of the belief system, in the development of their spiritual gifts." — **Sadé Heart of the Hawk (Mi'kmaq First Nation)**, Pipe Carrier, Iyalosha and Apetebi Ifa

"Dr. Vest's combination of academic, cultural, and ancestral knowledge is unparalleled. This book captures powerful and needed perspectives that will result in the betterment of the lives of individuals, communities, and society as a whole."
— **Farzana Nayani**, author, consultant and speaker

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jennifer Lisa Vest is a scientist-philosopher-intuitive. She holds a PhD in Indigenous Philosophy from UC Berkeley, an MA in history from Howard, and BA in Physics from Hampshire College. Her first career was as a philosophy professor at Seattle University and the University of Central Florida. Spiritually, Vest is a medical intuitive, an Akashic Records reader, a certified Quantum Healing Hypnosis Technique practitioner, and a Master Reiki practitioner, and has been trained in the traditions of African American Hoodoo, Native American Sweatlodge, Jamaican Revivalism, Trinidadian Shango, and Spiritualism from community elders.



Jennifer Lisa Vest

Sovereign Wisdom

Generating Native American Philosophy from Indigenous Cultures

New York, 2024. XXIV, 326 pp.
Critical Indigenous and American Indian Studies. Vol. 7

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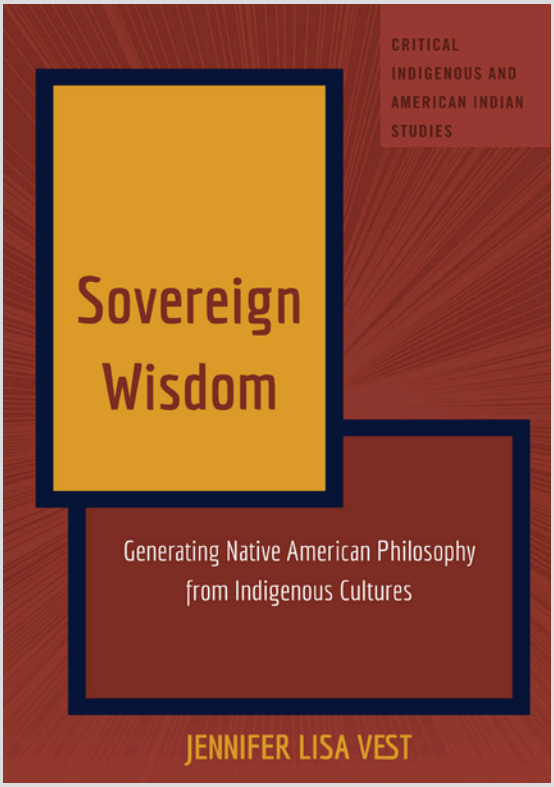
New publication

This book proposes a methodology for formu- lating a sovereign field of Academic Native American Philosophy. In this groundbreaking metaphilosophical work, the author identifies several recurrent themes in Indigenous North American cultures and argues that such the- mes can form the foundation of a unique field of philosophy. Creatively drawing on a diverse collection of Native voices from a wide variety of disciplines such as philosophy, religion, li- terature and oratory, this innovative book pro- mises to be a resource for philosophers and other scholars seeking to engage in discourses centering Native conceptual analyses.

Jennifer Lisa Vest, Ph.D. (Mikasuki Seminole mixedblood) is a retired Associate Professor of Philosophy. She earned her bachelor's de- gree in Physics from Hampshire College, her Masters in History from Howard University, and her PhD in Ethnic Studies and Philosophy at University of California, Berkeley. She int- roduced Native American philosophy into the philosophy curriculum at two universities and has devoted decades to fighting for the inclu- sion of Native American and African philoso- phy in the canon. She has published articles and poetry in numerous journals and served on the Committee for the Status of American Indians in Philosophy for the American Phi- losphical Association for many years. She was also the Treasurer for the International Asso- ciation for African Philosophy and Studies. She was an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Se- attle University and earned tenure in the Phi- losophy Department at the University of Cen- tral Florida before leaving Academia.

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REVIEWS

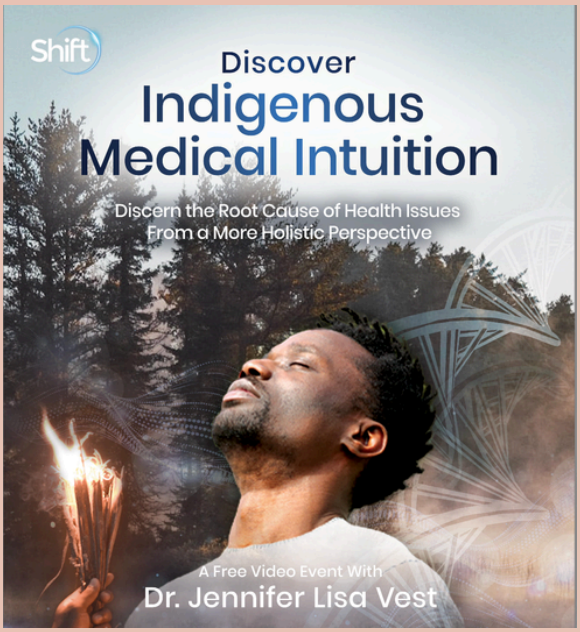
"Dr. Vest has written a perceptive understandable study about the challenge to accept Native American philosophy and she explains thoroughly what it is. Written from the heart, she shares her insightful understandings of Native life and the complexities of tribal world- views. If you want to know about Indians, this is a must read."

–**Donald L. Fixico,** Ph.D,
(Muscogee, Seminole, Shawnee, and Sac and Fox)
and author of *The American Indian Mind in a Linear World*

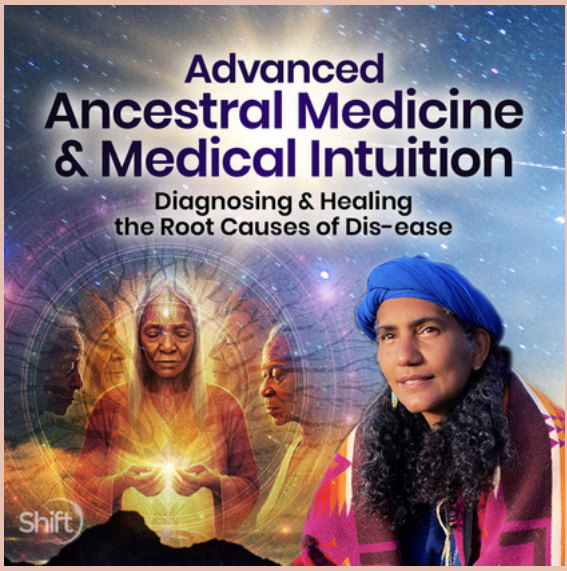
"Jennifer Vest has produced the most compre- hensive, compelling, and elegant treatise of-*Native American Philosophy* that I have seen to date. Her treatise elevates the stature of Native American to its rightful place among world Philosophies. Her writing is full of the life and spirit of Indigenous thought. As such, it is a must read for all those interested in Philoso- phy, Native American, Ecological and Contem- plative Studies."

–**Gregory Cajete, Ph.D.,**
(Tewa/ Santa Clara Pueblo)
Emeritus Professor, Native Studies and American Indian Education
University of New Mexico, and author of *Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence*

Ancestral Medicine Courses and Workshops



Dr. Vest teaches healing courses on *The Shift Network and* also on her website, drvestmedicalintuitive.com-with a focus on medical intuition and ancestral medicine in which Ithey draw on a diverse background and training in a variety of healing modaliites and a long practice as a practitioner of medical intution, mediumship, and ancestral medicine.





In person, Dr. Vest leads a variety of courses and workshops for students from every background, with an emphasis on Black and Indigenous traditions and communities





Interviews, Media amd Panels Online



Publisher's Weekly
Berkeley Times
Berkeleyside
Buddha at the Gas Pump,
Beyond the Illusion
Webworks: Voices of the Native Nations, KPOO radio (SF)
College of Integral Studies Public Program
Wisewoman Podcast
High Energy Health Podcast with Dawson Church,
Black Native Panel, Los Angeles Indigenous Pride
Bay Area Native Circle, KPFA (Berkeley)
A Psychic's Story
The Psychic Wives Podcast
Reiki Lifestyle



* These interviews are on Youtube

Testimonials

Poetry Workshop

“Overall participants seemed to really enjoy the presentation, requested you present every year, and thanked you for sharing. Others wrote that “everything was amazing” and “you did awesome!”.

-Summary of Evaluation of my Poetry Workshop with Clearsky Native Council teenagers, Seattle, WA

ONLINE STUDENT

"Dr. Jennifer Lisa Vest is amazing, and is the most compassionate, humble, ethical, and excellent teacher that I have had the privilege to learn from. I am looking forward to working with Dr. Vest again as soon as possible! I have also had flashes of intuition return, which I have not had since I was a child. I am looking forward to developing my intuition more. Dr. Vest excels at connecting you with your true self."

— Linda, Lakewood, Colorado

Intuition Workshop

I have been taking classes from Dr. Vest for about two years now. She is a wonderful teacher and conducts the classes in such a way that we have a chance to talk, discuss, and connect with each other on spiritual beliefs, thoughts, and practices. I like that she has her PhD and takes a philosophical and educational approach to her classes, but combines this with the loving and compassionate side of spirituality that I was looking for. She is an incredible healer, and has helped me with the grieving process of the recent passing of my sister and father. Her skills and knowledge are broad and extensive. She is well known on many different subject matters pertaining to spirituality., This makes it very exciting in class because I feel we're always learning something new, but constantly being refreshed on past topics. If your looking for a transformative experience in your life I would reccomend taking a class or look into a reading/healing with Dr. Vest.

-Themistocles Leftheris, Long Beach

Ancestral Medicine Workshop

“I Was Able to Come Out of a Group Ceremony With Excellent Connections to My Guides and My Ancestors”

Amelia Vigil, Oakland, CA



Invite me to your university or community. I love traveling to perform and speak on topics related to persistence, art, and social justice

Speaking Fees

Conference Keynote **$3000-$4000**

Honorarium $3000 plus traveling expenses (lodging and transportation) for a keynote

Student Workshop **$800**

Special pricing for non-profits and community organizations with smaller budgets

Poetry Reading/Book Signing- **$1,500**

$1500 Honorarium for a standalone performance when books are sold at the event. Sliding scale according to the budget of the organization.

When poetry reading or book-signing is added to another speaking engagement it can be added for an additional $500

All prices Negotiable

Special prices will be offered to low-budget community organizations especially those that serve BIPOC and LGBT communities. Just ask.

Premium Package **$4000**

Honorarium covers 2-3 connected events in the same location

This package is ideal when more than one department or organization would like to invite Dr. Vest to speak during the same week in the same location

*Traveling Expenses also required

Contact:
drvest@drvestmedicalintuitive.com

www.DrJenniferLisaVest